

Claims

1. Method for the production of slabs of ceramic material, of the type in which a mixture of a granulated material and a water-based binder deposited in a metered quantity on a temporary support, undergoes a stage of vibrating compression under vacuum and then a drying stage, during which the vibro-compressed mixture is supported by a porous material, and a firing stage, during which the dried slab rests on the firing surface by means of a temporary protective layer of refractory material (engobe), characterised in that said mixture, prior to the stage of vibrating compression under vacuum, is enclosed between two sheets, respectively a first sheet and a second sheet, of cardboard or paperboard of sufficient thickness for absorbing the excess mixture water, said sheets being removed prior to said drying stage.

2. Method for the production of slabs of ceramic material according to Claim 1, characterised in that said porous material supporting the vibro-compacted slab during drying is a cloth or felt which is deposited on the upper surface of the vibro-compacted slab after removal of the said second sheet of paperboard so that, following the subsequent overturning of the slab, said porous cloth or felt forms the temporary support for the slab during drying.

3. Method for the production of slabs of ceramic material according to Claim 2, characterised in that said first sheet of paperboard is deposited on a temporary support so that the mixture is deposited on said first sheet of paperboard, said temporary support and said first sheet of paperboard being removed after said vibrating compression stage and after the vibro-compacted slab, the upper surface of which has been lined with said porous cloth or felt, has undergone the said overturning stage prior to the drying stage.

4. Method for the production of slabs of ceramic material according to Claim 3, characterised in that said temporary support consists of a cloth, in particular a felt, or a rubberised tape.

5. Method for the production of slabs of ceramic material according to Claim 2, characterised in that, after said drying stage, the resultant dried rough-formed slab is raised so as to remove said layer of porous felt or other permeable material on which it was resting during drying.

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